

## MOLDOVA



### Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

Moldova is a unique country due to its geographical position, climate, geological conditions, relief and soil composition. It is a country often hit by natural disasters such as floods, torrential rains, hail, strong winds, landslides, droughts, frosts and earthquakes.

A high percentage of the population depends heavily on soil exploitation. At present, soil erosion threatens agricultural lands, leading the surface of eroded land to increase each year by 0.9%, which means that farming lands lose 26 million tons of fertile soil annually.

Moldova's forests cover 349.5 thousand hectares, which represent 10.3% of the country's territory. While the main function of these forestlands is to maintain a good ecological equilibrium and to protect the environment, the rate of forested land is not rapid enough to fulfill this function effectively. Together with other natural and anthropogenic factors, deforestation in Moldova has resulted in a high level of soil erosion, land slides, degradation of aquatic resources, and droughts.

At present, more than 50% of Moldova's population consumes water that does not fulfill sanitary norms. This is mainly the result of exhaustion and degradation of quality aquatic resources, as well as the lack of and the poor conditions of systems and technologies used to treat water. About 81% of the urban population and 17% of the rural population benefit from centralized systems of water supply. 67% of rural establishments' aqueducts do not meet hygienic standards. Mayoralties and collective associations, who manage the centralized systems of water supply, do not have the necessary material resources and qualified staff.

Moreover, many citizens, due to low income, are unable to pay the cost of these services. Such challenges will need to be addressed if Moldova is to make further progress in achieving MDG 7 for environmental sustainability.<sup>1</sup>

## QUICK FACTS

<b>Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:</b>	\$250,000
<b>Total UNDP and Co-Finance:</b>	\$1,136,210
<b>Total MPU and Bilateral:</b>	\$198,495
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,584,705

**Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out:** 29.1 ODP tonnes

## SPOTLIGHT



### Sustainable Development Rehabilitates Urban Environment<sup>2</sup>

UNDP is supporting Moldova to improve the environment in urban areas, where youth poverty and exclusion is widespread and increasing, leading to risky behaviours, such as violence and crime, and alcoholism and drug abuse. Moldova is therefore working to improve the living conditions, the quality of its urban environment and investment in human capital. Youth and family centres play a significant part in this process by providing safe places for constructive free-time activities, such as sports, and provide quality information, internet access and computer skills.

In 2001, UNDP implemented an urban environmental improvement project, and in 2005 the first Family Centre was opened in the Sculeni district of Chisinau, comprising a modern sports centre with golf and basketball fields targeting school children and students, as well as families. The Family Centre project is one of over ten partnerships created and supported by UNDP in the framework of the "Mesmerizing Moldova" project, which is working to strengthen the country's capacity to incorporate sustainable development principles of human settlements into the national policy and strategies towards reducing poverty in urban areas. Such partnerships aim at contributing to sustainable urban development by applying an integrated approach towards issues such as environmental rehabilitation of urban areas, job creation and improved access to services and a healthy life.

The project has been successful due to its collaborative nature. In addition to UNDP's contribution, the project would have not been possible without the support of the business community and Chisinau City, which set apart an area of land for this purpose back in 2001. Due to the relative ease of replication of this project, similar centres will soon open in other major cities in Moldova.

# STRATEGIES

Energy and Environment programs are being implemented to reduce consumption of ODSs, assess environmental practices, and sustainably manage land. UNDP also promotes environment-friendly technologies and production processes, harmonization of the national environmental legislation to European standards, and the utilization of renewable energy resources. Through funding by GEF, UNDP Moldova is conducting a capacity self-assessment in order to identify priority actions and needs towards the improved global environmental management in the areas pertaining to the three Rio conventions: UNFCCC, UNCBD, and UNCCD.<sup>3</sup>



**Bruno Pouezat, Resident Representative**

## PORTFOLIO

### FSSD\*

UNDP is supporting Moldova in designing its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process to develop the SEA Capacity Development Manual in Romania. The NCSA provides support for the identification through a country-driven consultative process of priorities, needs, and constraints for capacity building in order to reinforce the synergetic effect and meet obligations under the three Rio global environmental Conventions towards the protection of global environment.

### LAND

Sustainable Land Management is a concern where the GEF has launched a preparatory process to assess the feasibility of a programme towards improved use of natural resources with an impact on poverty reduction and improved livelihoods in rural semi-arid area of Moldova.

### CHEMICALS

The Government of Moldova and UNDP are working together in implementation of the refrigerant management plan through a technical assistance programme that makes available incentives to industrial and commercial companies to convert or retrofit their CFC-based installations. In addition, the project supports recovery and recycling initiatives for the mobile air-conditioning sub-sector.



### CONTACTS

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### PARTNERS

**Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Moldova**

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<sup>1</sup>MDGR 2005 [http://www.undp.md/publications/doc/Millennium\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.undp.md/publications/doc/Millennium_ENG.pdf); <sup>2</sup>Petru\_ evsch, M, "Anytime, For Anyone", UNDP Moldova; UNDP Moldova website: <http://www.undp.md/focus%20areas/demgover/>; Habitat Moldova website: <http://www.habitatmoldova.org>; <sup>3</sup><http://www.undp.md/focus%20areas/energy/>, [http://www.undg.org/documents/1644-Moldova\\_UNDAF\\_-\\_Moldova\\_2001.doc](http://www.undg.org/documents/1644-Moldova_UNDAF_-_Moldova_2001.doc); <sup>4</sup>Frameworks and Strategies for Sustainable Development